

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A The slicer of claim 32, wherein ~~for slicing of foodstuffs comprising:~~

~~a rotatable disc having a radial slot therein and a knife blade projecting above a plane defined by said rotatable disc;~~

~~a chute for downwardly conveying foodstuffs to said rotatable disc, said chute being at an acute angle with respect to a direction of rotation of said rotatable disc; and an orifice between said chute and said rotatable disc;~~

said chute ~~having~~ has an elongated region disposed in an said end of said chute, and ~~forward in said a direction of rotation of said rotatable disc, and~~ said elongated region tapering and extending forwards in ~~said a~~ a direction of rotation of said rotatable disc, said orifice ~~between said chute and said rotatable disc~~ being disposed at said elongated region of said chute, and said orifice having a shape that decreases in width in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc.

21. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said orifice is an ovate shape of decreasing width in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc.

22. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said chute has an elbow therein.

23. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 22, wherein said orifice is of a tear drop shape with a narrow end pointed in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc.

24. (Currently Amended) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said ~~radial slot has an~~ knife blade is adjustable ~~width~~ to vary the thickness of said sliced foodstuffs.

25. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 21, wherein said chute terminates

in a housing covering and conforming to said ovate shape.

26-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A slicer for slicing of foodstuffs comprising:

a knife blade, adapted to slice foodstuffs, that rotates at an orifice at an end of a chute for conveying foodstuffs to said knife blade; and

an automatic controller for correlating the rate of production of sliced foodstuffs with temperature, so that said controller automatically causes said knife blade to be stationary below a temperature value, and said controller automatically increases the rate of production of sliced foodstuffs as the temperature is increased above said temperature value.

32. (New) The slicer of claim 31 further comprising:

a rotatable disc having a radial slot therein and said knife blade, wherein said knife blade projects above a plane defined by said rotatable disc.